

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for providing access to a resource, comprising the steps of:
- 2 providing a graphical user interface (GUI) to an operator with which client
- 3 connectivity with the resource can be enabled, the GUI being configured such that the
- 4 process used by the operator to facilitate connectivity using the GUI is the same
- 5 regardless of which underlying connectivity method is used;
- 6 receiving commands of the operator with the GUI that convey the identity of the
- 7 client and the resource to be accessed by the client;
- 8 determining the client network configuration; and
- 9 establishing client connectivity to the resource.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the GUI comprises lists of clients and
- 2 available resources.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of receiving commands
- 2 comprises first receiving selection of a client for which connectivity is to be provided.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of receiving commands further
- 2 comprises detecting association of a resource with a client VLAN.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein association of a resource with a client
2 VLAN is communicated with the GUI by dragging the resource and dropping it on the
3 client VLAN.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the client network
2 configuration comprises accessing a connectivity database that stores the client network
3 configurations.

1 7. A system for providing access to a resource, comprising:
2 means for providing a graphical user interface (GUI) to an operator with which
3 client connectivity with the resource can be enabled, the GUI being configured such that
4 the process used by the operator to facilitate connectivity using the GUI is the same
5 regardless of which underlying connectivity system is used;
6 means for receiving commands of the operator with the GUI that convey the
7 identity of the client and the resource to be accessed by the client;
8 means for determining the client network configuration; and
9 means for establishing client connectivity to the resource.

1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the GUI comprises lists of clients and
2 available resources.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the means for receiving commands
2 comprises means for receiving selection of a client for which connectivity is to be
3 provided.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for receiving commands further
2 comprises means for detecting association of a resource with a client VLAN.

1 11. The system of claim 7, wherein the means for determining the client
2 network configuration comprises means for accessing a connectivity database that stores
3 the client network configurations.

1 12. A computer readable medium for providing access to a resource,
2 comprising:

3 logic configured to provide a graphical user interface (GUI) to an operator with
4 which client connectivity to the resource is enabled, the GUI being configured such that
5 the process used by the operator to facilitate connectivity using the GUI is the same
6 regardless of which underlying connectivity computer readable medium is used;

7 logic configured to receive commands of the operator with the GUI that convey
8 the identity of the client and the resource to be accessed by the client;

9 logic configured to determine the client network configuration; and

10 logic configured to establish client connectivity to the resource.

1 13. The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein the GUI comprises
2 lists of clients and available resources.

1 14. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the logic configured
2 to receive commands comprises logic configured to receive selection of a client for which
3 connectivity is to be provided.

1 15. The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the logic configured
2 to receive commands further comprises logic configured to detect association of a
3 resource with a client VLAN.

1 16. The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein the logic configured
2 to determine the client network configuration comprises logic configured to access a
3 connectivity database that stores the client network configurations.